

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

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SEN. GILDA JACOBS LAUDS PASSAGE OF “KEVIN’S LAW” Jacobs: “This is a milestone in mental health treatment.”

LANSING – Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) today praised the passage of bipartisan legislation, known as “Kevin’s Law,” that will establish new rules for more timely intervention and effective treatment for those with severe mental illness. Under the new laws, people who require frequent hospitalization or incarceration due to refusal of treatment could be court-ordered to receive outpatient treatment as an alternative to incarceration.

Jacobs was one of the architects of the package that passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate.

“Not only will this bill provide safer and more effective outpatient treatment for those who require it, but it will also assure they secure treatment before they become a threat to themselves or others,” Jacobs said. “This is a milestone in mental health treatment and I am excited at the prospect of the Governor’s signing it into law.”

The law was named for Kevin Heisinger, a Michigan man who was beaten to death four years ago in the Kalamazoo Amtrak station by a mentally ill man who had refused to take his medication.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.